

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece of polymer fibers, characterized by the fact that
  - the polymer fibers have a non-circular cross section with a trilobal, multilobal, flat, oval, Z-form, S-form or keyhole form fiber cross section,
  - the polymer fibers have a low fiber titer between 0.5 and 5 dtex,
  - the polymer fibers have preferred directions in the spunbond fleece and are laid in a preferred direction perpendicular to the Z-direction and in the machine direction and/or transverse to the machine direction,
  - the spunbond fleece has a low weight per unit area of between 7 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and
  - the spunbond fleece has a ~~high optical opacity measured as the reduction of the light permeability in the range from 5 to 20%, relative to the weight per unit area,~~ or the spunbond fleece has an high physical opacity measured as air permeability in the range from 6·10<sup>2</sup> l/m<sup>2</sup> sec to 9·10<sup>3</sup> l/m<sup>2</sup> sec, relative to the weight per unit area or the spunbond fleece has a combination of said high optical opacity reduction of light permeability and said air permeability of said high physical opacity, and, wherein the reduction of light permeability is determined using a light table and an associated sensor that measures intensity of light passing through the light table, and wherein the reduction of light permeability is the difference between the intensity of light passing through the spunbond fleece and the light intensity in the absence of the spunbond fleece.
  - the spunbond fleece has a a low weight per unit area of between 7 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the polymer fibers have fiber titers in the range of between 1.4 dtex and 3.5 dtex.

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the optical opacity, measured as the reduction of the light permeability, lies in the range of 6–9%, ~~relative to the weight per unit area.~~

6. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the spunbond fleece ~~[[it]]~~ has weights per unit area between 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

7. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the physical opacity ~~relative to the weight per unit area~~, measured as sieve residue, lies in the range of 75% to 99%.

8. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the physical opacity ~~relative to the weight per unit area~~, measured as air permeability, lies in the range of between 7·10<sup>3</sup>l/m<sup>2</sup> sec and 8·10<sup>3</sup>l/m<sup>2</sup> sec.

9. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the polymer fibers consist of polyolefins, PA, or polyester, ~~preferably polypropylene.~~

10. (Original) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the fleece is coated with an adhesive.

11. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 10, ~~characterized by the fact that the adhesive has penetrated into the fleece without going through it~~ wherein the

adhesive partially penetrates into the spunbond fleece and does not completely penetrate through the spunbond fleece.

12. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 10, characterized by the fact that in the temperature range between 140° C - 160° C the adhesive has dynamic viscosities in the range of 3000 mPas to 33000 mPas, ~~preferably 4000 mPas to 6000 mPas.~~

13. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 10, characterized by the fact that the portion of adhesive per m<sup>2</sup> of spunbond fleece lies between 0.5 g and 10g.

14. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, further comprising one or more inorganic salts ~~characterized by the fact that inorganic salts, are used.~~

15. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece according to claim 13, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ further comprising titanium oxides and/or calcium carbonates between 0.1 and 5% by weight ~~are used as additives.~~

16. (Previously Presented) A hygiene product comprising the spunbond fleece of claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) A filter material comprising the spunbond fleece of claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A household cloth comprising the spunbond fleece of claim 1.